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DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

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SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, JAN 1-15, 2005

1. (U) In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

2. (U) Published January 14 by Iran Mania News (FBIS Translation):

TITLE: Iran, Turkey to expand security cooperation

BEGIN TEXT: LONDON, Jan 14 (IranMania) - The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on security cooperation.

Iran's Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs Hossein Motahar signed the MoU with his Turkish counterpart during the 21st session of Joint Security Committee in Ankara.

The MoU focuses on campaign against drug trafficking, smuggling of goods, human trafficking, money laundering, terrorism as well as organized crimes at bilateral and regional levels as well as among the ECO members states.

It was agreed that the 22nd session of the Joint Security Committee would be held in December-November 2005.

The Iranian delegation consisted of representatives from ministry of foreign affairs, interior ministry, army and police. END TEXT.

3. (U) Published January 13 by Almaty Interfax-Kazakhstan in Russian (FBIS Translation):

TITLE: Kazakhstan Steps Up Fight Against Human Trafficking

BEGIN FBIS Translated Excerpt: Astana, 13 January: The Kazakh Justice Ministry has said the country's law-enforcement agencies have stepped up the fight against human trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation.

"The law enforcement bodies and the bodies of the National Security Committee have considerably stepped up activities against this problem. In 2004, five channels of trafficking Kazakh citizens abroad for sexual and other exploitation were identified and blocked," Deputy Justice Minister Ubaydulla Stamkulov said today, addressing a session of the inter-departmental commission for fighting human trafficking.

The session, which was chaired by Justice Minister Onalsyn Zhumabekov, summed up the results of work by state bodies within the framework of implementation of a government plan to fight and prevent crimes related to human trafficking in 2004-05.

Stamkulov said that in 2004, the country's Interior Ministry bodies had instituted 12 criminal cases under Article 128 of the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan "Recruiting and trafficking people for exploitation," which is twice as many as in 2003.

Seven of the indicated number of the criminal cases were sent to court, one was dropped, two were suspended and the rest are undergoing legal proceedings.

Courts have passed verdict of guilty on three cases, the minister said.

Meanwhile, he said, 13 cases were instituted last year on organizing illegal migration of citizens from CIS countries. In 2003, 11 such cases were instituted.

As a result, Stamkulov said, six people were convicted on nine cases in 2004.

He also presented statistics, according to which, 77 private employment agencies were registered in

Kazakhstan as of 1 January 2005, and 80 licenses were issued for activities in attracting foreign manpower and taking manpower from Kazakhstan.

Referring to information provided by the Labor and Social Protection Ministry, Stamkulov said in 2004, private agencies helped 1,083 Kazakhs find jobs in South Korea, eight in Turkey, 526 in Russia.

Over 3,000 Kyrgyz citizens also found jobs in the agricultural sector in Almaty Region last year. END TEXT.

[Passage omitted: In November 2004 Kazakhstan signed UN convention on fight against human trafficking, and the republic's parliament has yet to ratify it]

14. (U) Published January 12 by the semi-official Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: The border patrol and Jandarma captured 38 illegal immigrants at the Edirne border. The group included 30 Iraqis, 5 Somalians and 3 Iranians; all were captured in Ipsala and Enez.

The illegal immigrants were sent to the Edirne Police Foreigners and Passport Department for deportation. END TEXT.

15. (U) Published January 11 by the semi-official Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Jandarma captured 57 foreigners who were illegally trying to leave Turkey in Edirne.

In the military zone near the Turpcular village of Ipsala, the Jandarma captured 41 Somalians, 4 Iraqis, 3 Moroccans and in the Serem village of Meric, 4 Algerians and 5 Pakistanis.

The illegal immigrants were sent to the Edirne Passport and Foreigners' Police for deportation. END TEXT.

16. (U) Published January 10 by the semi-official Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Istanbul Police carried out an operation in Silivri and captured six people involved in forced prostitution.

Police raided a villa in the Mimar Sinan district of Silivri, and captured Ukrainian citizen Tatyana L., Murat K., Tugce K., her brother Serafettin K., Saffet A., and Lyubov K.

Tatyana L. told the police that her husband died and when she was 7 months pregnant she was offered a job in Turkey as a babysitter/cleaning lady. When she came to Turkey, she realized that she was in the hands of a gang that marketed foreign women to clients.

She gave birth to her child in Istanbul and when she had to spare some time to the baby, the gang reportedly suffocated the child.

The court arrested Murat K., Tugce K., her brother Serafettin K., Saffet A., and Lyubov K. for "killing a baby," forming a gang to do woman trafficking at international level, and forgery. END TEXT.

17. (U) Published January 7, 2005 by the Pakistan Daily Times:

More than 9,000 illegal Pakistani immigrants killed
By Shahzad Malik

BEGIN TEXT: ISLAMABAD: Border security forces in Greece and Turkey have killed more than 9,000 Pakistanis, trying to enter the two countries illegally in the past 10 years.

In 2004, more than 100 Pakistani nationals had been killed and 2,000 had been arrested while trying to slip into European and other countries without proper documents, revealed a report compiled by a Rawalpindi-based human rights organisation. The report said at least 938 Pakistanis had been killed by the security forces at the 200 kilometre-long border of Greece and Turkey, on the charges of illegal entry. The authorities in the two countries had laid land mines in the border area to prevent illegal foreigners from entering, the report said. The report said the Iranian border security forces had killed 13 Pakistanis when they were entering Iran in January 2004, adding that nine Pakistanis had drowned at the Dubai coast in January 2004 and more than 90 Pakistanis were still

missing after they got lost in the tidal waves while entering into Australia on August 16, 2004.

Ulfat Kazmi, president of the Global organisation, said border security forces of Iran had arrested 1,528 illegal Pakistan immigrant, Turkey's police caught 211 and Greece border security force apprehended 158 Pakistanis who were trying to enter these countries illegally.

Talking to Daily Times, he said the Pakistanis who had been caught at different places suffered in jails and the Pakistani embassies in these countries had not made arrangements for their release.

Explaining the modus operandi of the travel agents involved in human trafficking, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) sources said they (travel agents) arrange visas and other travelling documents to Sri Lanka, Thailand and Hong Kong or other easy destinations and from there people were sent to European countries without valid travel documents.

FIA's immigration staff at the Islamabad airport said up to 17 deportation cases had been registered in 2004.
END TEXT.

18. (U) Published January 5, 2005 by the Cyprus Mail:

TITLE: 'Modest progress' tackling flesh trade
By Jean Christou; US: Cyprus needs better protection for victims

BEGIN TEXT: CYPRUS has made moderate progress in combating human trafficking, according to an interim assessment by the US State Department, which has put a number of countries on a special watch list.

In June last year, for the first time, the US put Cyprus on a watch list of countries, which lacked effort in combating human trafficking. Although human trafficking has been rampant on the island for well over a decade, US embassy officials said they did not have enough evidence until recently to include the island on its 'Trafficking in Persons' (TIP) report, which was first launched in 2000.

On December 22 the State Department submitted to Congress its first Interim Assessment of the countries in question, including Cyprus, which it says has made "modest progress in its efforts to combat trafficking".

It said that a number of planned government initiatives have yet to be approved and implemented. Two intergovernmental groups meet regularly to discuss anti-trafficking efforts and promote information sharing.

The groups expect to officially present to the government a national plan to combat trafficking and legislation to address trafficking and immigration by the end of 2004.

There was a significant increase in trafficking-related arrests in the first 10 months of 2004, which numbered 173 compared to 26 in 2003. Additionally, 15 cases are being tried under 2000 anti-trafficking legislation, although no one has been convicted, the report said.

"While police produced press releases on every trafficking in persons-related arrest, the government has funded no large-scale efforts to educate the public on trafficking," it added.

"The government froze the issuing of new cabaret licenses in June 2004. It has prohibited hiring replacements of women on "artiste" visas who are identified as victims and removed from their cabaret employment."

This means that women who are trafficking victims and leave a cabaret now have the right to stay in Cyprus and receive legal advice and financial assistance if they agree to aid the police in prosecuting their former employer or the person who trafficked them to the island.

The Government has also set aside several rooms for trafficking victims in government- subsidized homes for the elderly until more permanent shelters can be secured.

"Victim protection remains inadequate. The Government drafted, but has not yet finalised or distributed, an information sheet to provide to newly arrived female foreign workers," the report concludes.

The TIP report covers 140 countries worldwide and is divided into four categories. Tier 1 countries, which include mostly European states, are those where trafficking is big business but where the authorities

pull out all the stops to combat it. Tier 1 has 25 countries listed and also includes South Korea, Morocco, Ghana and Taiwan.

Countries in the Tier 2 category, which has 54 states listed, are those where trafficking is rife but authorities are making significant effort to combat it, and have shown progress since the previous report last year such as Afghanistan and Iran. Tier 3 countries, where the US says nothing is being done includes North Korea, Cuba and Sudan.

Cyprus has been categorised in what the report calls the 'Tier 2 Watch List' along with Greece and Turkey, Nigeria, Russia, Pakistan and The Congo and another 35 countries. At least 100 cases in each country must be documented to warrant attention. The US has 16,000 documented cases.

Cyprus is on Tier 2 Watch List because its efforts against trafficking are based largely on the government's commitments to implement's recommendations made by the Ombudswoman last year.

Several of the countries in the Tier 2 category, including Lebanon and Saudi Arabia are not on the 'watch list' although they appeared when the list was issued to be doing less than Cyprus to combat trafficking.

The original report said that Lebanon had taken 'minimal steps' in 2003 and offered only limited information on arrests for trafficking. Saudi Arabia has no trafficking laws and few victims are encouraged to press charges. END TEXT.

9. (U) Published January 5, 2005 by the semi-official Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Jandarma captured 33 foreigners attempting to cross the border illegally into the Ipsala and Meric sub-provinces of Edirne.

Jandarma operations netted 14 Somalians, eight Palestinians, seven Iraqis, two Moroccans, one Burmese and one Mauritanian.

The illegal immigrants were sent to the Passport and Foreigners Department of the Edirne Police for deportation. END TEXT.

10. (U) Published January 4, 2005 by the semi-official Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Jandarma captured 37 foreigners and their two Turkish guides in Ipsala, Edirne. The illegal immigrants included 32 Iraqis and five Pakistanis along with their guide Erdem K. (33) on a pick-up truck (license plate 34 FMF 44) driven by Serdar D. (35).

In their testimony, the two Turks told the Jandarma that they were trying to take the foreigners out of the country in return for money.

The two guides were detained and foreigners were taken to the Passport and Foreigners Department of the Edirne Police for deportation. END TEXT.

11. (U) Published December 29, 2004 by the semi-official Turkish language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Jandarma and police patrols captured 36 foreigners in the Bosna village of Uzunkopru, Edirne.

They were taken to the Edirne Police Foreigners and Passport Department for deportation. Foreigners who were trying to cross the border illegally included 16 Iraqis, six Algerians, four Pakistanis, three Palestinians, three Mauritanians, three Somalians and one Indian. END TEXT.

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